

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

November 1970

New Series, Price 6d.

Somebody, somewhere, waits for a card from you

GIANT panda with a splendid taste in newspapers (well, he is reading Spastics News!) dropped in at The Spastics Society's London headquarters to have a look at the wonderful selection of Spastics Christmas Cards. "The selection is better than ever this year", he enthused, "and I know that Chi Chi and An An will just love their cards..."

To be quite, quite honest, he didn't really say that, but it is a good excuse to remind you to buy Spastics Cards NOW. Actually, the furry visitor sat mute and uncomplaining as receptionist Theresa Somervell and secretary Celia Hale thrust a bowler hat on his head (we're not quite sure why), and a Spastics News in his paws. Very decorative too.

Panda was passing through London en route to Sevenoaks, Kent, where he will take up residence in the window of the spastics gift shop in the High Street. He was made by a generous friend of the Society, and is due to be raffled to make somebody one of the biggest Christmas presents ever.

He will also be helping spastics. So will you if you send lots of our cards...



'Flint-hearted Treasury cost us millions' — Chairman

A STRONG demand for the Government to honour its election promises to help charities with tax reforms and incentives to speed the flow of funds, was made by the Chairman of The Spastics Society, Mr. W. A. Burn, at the Society's annual general meeting in London on Saturday. He made the demand "in the name of The Spastics Society, all other service charities, and the disabled."

Mr. Burn declared: "Give us the tools in the form of tax reforms and incentives, and we shall in partnership with you help to build a better life

for the afflicted. If you really care — then demonstrate your care by turning your earlier promises into positive deeds."

Charities, said Mr. Burn, were accepted by the Government as serving a vital need, and, in the case of The Spastics Society—as an extension to the Welfare State. "Yet this acceptance of our necessary aid in caring for Society's weaker members has earned us virtually no consideration from the Treasury. Indeed, this Department's flint-hearted attitude towards charities has resulted in The Spastics Society losing millions of pounds—and each pound of income lost translates into continued suffering and personal des-

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A matter of concern for everyone

FEW people, even M.P.s, Local Councillors and Members of Regional Hospital Boards, fully understand the plight of the sub-normal. This lack of knowledge accounts in part for the failure of successive Governments to solve the problems that caring for them presents. In 1969 a number of scandals underlined the need, not only for immediate action to be taken but, also, for a complete re-thinking of the whole subject.

At that time Mr. Crossman, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, promised a White Paper on the subject which would set out the Government's policy. This White Paper has been prepared but there is still delay in releasing it to the general public.

What is the mystery of the missing White Paper? Why is it that the public cannot be told the Government's plans for these poor unfortunate people? Mr. James Loring, the Director of The Spastics Society, who has specialised in this field, has prepared a Report entitled "A Matter for Concern,"

which is published by the Society.

In it he condemns the British public for allowing subnormality hospitals to "become the dustbins of the community, taking people whom no-one else will take." He stresses the appalling 19th Century conditions in which thousands of sub-normal but able-bodied people are left to "rot away," and highlights the fact that nearly 5,000 educationally subnormal children have been awaiting schooling for over a year.

Cruel neglect

Says Mr. Loring: "The affluent society, as we have it in Britain today, treats its subnormal people with cruel neglect. Subnormality is pushed under the carpet in this country. It's something that happens to the other fellow, never oneself. Yet a subnormal person is born every hour and any family can produce a subnormal child. A motor accident or a thrombosis can make any of us subnormal. This is why the missing White Paper should be of vital concern to everyone."

Mr. Loring's Report, which outlines ways in which the massive problems of caring for the subnormal can be tackled, is detailed on Page 2 of Spastics News. It should be read by anyone who cares about the less fortunate members of the community.

Elaine wins her place at Open University

MRS. Elaine Roberts, a severely handicapped young spastic woman from Northampton, has been accepted for a degree course at the new Open University, which commences tuition in January, 1971.

As reported in a previous issue, Mrs. Roberts cannot



walk, has limited use of her hands, and suffers from a severe speech defect. Although confined to a wheelchair, she has travelled widely by rail and air.

Before her marriage, Mrs. Roberts was a student of the Society's Oakwood Centre. She previously spent five years at the Thomas Delarue School.

She has six "O"-levels and two "A"-levels, and now hopes to gain a degree in English so that she can teach correspondence course students.



Playtime for V.I.P.'s

After the official opening of the nursery school extension at The Mount, The Spastics Society's Family Help Unit at Nottingham, the Duke of Rutland and other guests played with some of the children. Pictured from left to right are: Mr. H. E. Wolff, former chairman of the Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group; the Duchess of Rutland, Mrs. D. A. Woolley, Chairman; the Duke of Rutland, and Mrs. Wolff, former secretary. Report of the opening ceremony on page 11.

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Post and News, Nottingham.

Midnight ploughboys set world record

A PLOUGHING marathon that established an official world record also raised more than £1,000 for Devon and Exeter Spastics Society.

It was achieved by a five-man team from Exeter and District Young Farmers' Club, who in 24 hours of almost non-stop ploughing with one tractor, cultivated 84.1 acres of a 110-acre Devon farm field.

The only setback was caused through a puncture in one of the tractor's tyres—and this was put right in 20 minutes.

More than 3,000 people watched the record-breaking event as the five young men—all farmers' sons—ploughed by day and night, each man work-

ing one-hour shifts at the wheel. They were sponsored at various amounts per acre, ranging from 3d. to 10s.

They used a Roadless 115—one of the largest tractors of its kind in Britain—and a six-furrow plough. The five were Robert Webber, Christopher Collings, Andrew Goodridge, David Weeks and Michael Leach—average age, 20.

The money raised from this and associated events will go to the fund for an extension to Vranck House, Devon and Exeter Spastics Society's Centre at Exeter.

It is thought to be the first time the public have been invited to sponsor a ploughing marathon for charity.

Triple arm of the law

WHILE on holiday at the coast recently, four residents from a Spastics Society Centre decided to go to a midnight movie. On returning to the car park, they found it locked up—with their car inside.

Somebody had the bright idea of dialling 999 and a policeman soon came along. A little later another turned up to see what the first was doing... Finally, reinforcements appeared in the shape of a third policeman, anxious to see what the other two were doing...

Eventually, combined forces of law and order managed to release the car.

"... It is worth bearing in mind that a middle-class family of five will often spend more on one meal in a West End restaurant than is spent on the care of a subnormal patient in hospital over a whole week..."

"... To make tax concessions while thousands of able-bodied people virtually rot away in custodial care without the necessary facilities which would enable them to live more independently within the community would be indefensible..."

A MATTER FOR CONCERN

THERE has been much public discussion lately about the condition of subnormal people. Knowledge of the problem, however, remains fragmentary — even among many of our elected Members of Parliament, Local Councillors and others in positions of authority and influence. This Report, therefore, sets out to clarify the position.

Why is subnormality now a matter for grave concern?

It has been a matter of concern for decades. However, the position deteriorated seriously in 1969 when a number of scandals provoked a public outcry. At that time the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security (Mr. Richard Crossman) gave the matter urgent and serious consideration, and a White paper setting out the Government's proposals was promised.

Publication was delayed on a number of occasions and this paper has still not seen the light of day. Until the present Government states its policy and plans for the future care of the subnormal, and makes the necessary funds available, no action can be taken to implement much-needed reforms.

The case of the missing White Paper is therefore of the utmost importance as its recommendations could affect vitally the lives of over half a million men, women and children, and their relatives.

The people

Who are the subnormal and the severely subnormal, and how do they differ from ordinary people?

The average Intelligence Quotient of the population is accorded as being 100. The I.Q. of the subnormal ranges from 50 to 70/80, while it falls to below 50 for the severely subnormal.

Although subnormal persons have less intelligence than the 'average' they can, nevertheless, benefit from special education, training and, sometimes, from medical treatment. As a consequence they may well become capable of leading independent lives.

The severely subnormal are those who have subnormality of intelligence to such a degree that they are incapable, and are likely to remain incapable, of living an independent life. However, they, too, can benefit from special training and care.

How many such people are there in the community?

The answer can only be approximate. It seems, however, that there are approximately 200,000 in the severely subnormal range (i.e., 4 per 1,000 of the population) and that there are between 300,000-400,000 in the subnormal range (i.e., between 6-8 per 1,000).

Why is The Spastics Society so concerned with this problem?

Although many spastics are of at least average intelligence, about 25 per cent are probably in the severely subnormal range and between 20-25 per cent in the subnormal range. Cerebral palsy — the disorder from which spastics suffer — does not necessarily affect intelligence, but it does in a significant number of cases.

What has The Spastics Society done?

It has built schools and centres for spastics with a mental handicap, financed medical and educational research, medical conferences and explanatory publications and spoken out forcibly.

Do people with subnormal and severely subnormal intelligence have other handicaps?

Yes. A significant proportion, and particularly those with cerebral palsy (spastics), may have bad speech or hearing or be physically handicapped. The addition of these defects to subnormality can produce an especially heavy handicap. Even so, given appropriate education and training, these multiple-handicapped people, too, can be helped to lead worthwhile lives.

Where do the majority of subnormal people live?

Frequently they live in the community. We often accept the high-grade subnormal without realising it. For example, we talk quite affectionately about the 'dumb blonde', and

either dismissively or tolerantly, about people who seem rather slow or 'a bit dim.' Persons of this sort usually cope quite well in ordinary life, particularly if they are well adjusted to other members of the community.

Are the subnormal and severely subnormal neglected?

A great deal has been done by special education and, when necessary, medical treatment, to help the subnormal. This group, as children, are usually termed 'educationally subnormal' and are catered for by special schools.

Approximately 60,000 educationally subnormal children are receiving special education but, unfortunately, nearly 5,000 have been awaiting admission to a school for more than a year. Quite a number of educationally subnormal people find their way into subnormality hospitals, largely because of poor home conditions, emotional disturbances, lack of suitable employment, or additional handicaps. Their situation is often very bad indeed because many of the hospitals are overcrowded and operate in grossly unsuitable premises.

Why are the conditions in many subnormality hospitals so bad?

There are a number of reasons. Many are in buildings which were erected in the 19th century. Structurally sound, but often built as Poor Law institutions, they are quite unsuited for subnormal people who, most of all, need individual attention, and to live in small groups. Furthermore there is a great national shortage of beds.

There have been a number of cases of alleged ill-treatment of patients by nursing staff. Why is this?

There are good or bad staff in any organisation and, although ill-treatment can never be condoned, it has to be recognised that the kindest of us may act violently if we are under prolonged stress and strain.

Need all the patients stay in subnormality hospitals?

No. It seems that there are at least 50 per cent who, if suitable facilities were available, could be cared for in smaller units within the community. The percentage may, in fact, be considerably higher. Much depends upon the extent to which community medical services can cope with health problems from which some patients suffer, e.g. epilepsy.

Are the subnormality hospitals in any way to 'blame' for the present situation?

No; it is we, the general public, who are to blame for permitting the present conditions to exist. Whilst subnormality hospitals can, to some extent, decide who they will admit, the pressure on them from long waiting lists is considerable. They have, therefore, become the dustbins of the community, taking people who no-one else will take; in particular, those in Local Authorities' areas where the services are poor.

It must be emphasised that many people who find their way into subnormality hospitals do not require medical treatment or nursing care.

Have voluntary organisations failed the subnormal?

With their limited resources they have done well, but they cannot afford to build hospitals or large numbers of Day Schools and Centres. In some cases, their keenness to work and co-operate with official bodies has produced an unwillingness to attack the existing order.

Should not the doctors and nurses publicly denounce conditions in which they are forced to work, or otherwise take collective action?

If medical personnel spoke out forcefully, public opinion would mobilise behind them and Government action might well follow. However, loyalty to the institution is very strong in these professions. It must be faced too, that a minority of doctors and nurses in the field of subnormality wish to preserve the present system of care and are blind to its intrinsic defects.

What are the alternatives to hospital care?

They are:—

Day Junior Training Centres for children staffed by teachers specially trained to work with the mentally handicapped.

Day Training Centres for adults staffed by good instructors who can bring out the best in subnormal people. Full support for the families of subnormal people so that they can be encouraged to look after their subnor-

mal relatives as long as possible, thus helping to keep them out of institutional care.

Hostels in the local community, rather than isolated hospitals, where subnormal people who cannot live with their families can be cared for.

At present good community facilities exist in very few areas.

How many subnormal people are in long stay hospitals?

Approximately 60,000.

Would it not be enormously expensive to provide entirely new facilities for this number?

Initially it would be expensive, but we have neglected the problem for so long that the spending of large sums on this forgotten minority has the highest possible moral justification.

How long would it take to bring about a substantial improvement?

In five years we could break the back of the problem and provide other facilities for approximately 20,000 who do not require hospital care. Within ten years we could produce a subnormality service which could be the envy of the world.

How much would it cost?

The capital cost would be probably in the region of £200 million but — spread over a period of ten years — it would involve an expenditure of approximately only £20 million a year.

This latter sum is a remarkably modest outlay for belated justice when one considers that the annual Health and Welfare Services bill for England and Wales is over £1,614 million.

What then is required?

The first requirement is a National Plan for an improved subnormality service both at Hospital Board and Local Authority level. In particular, a review of the current career structure is essential. Subnormality must become a field which is attractive to work in, such as it is in Denmark and other countries.

Finding the money

How could the re-organisation of the subnormality services be financed?

This must be a Government decision, but it is worth bearing in mind that a middle-class family of five will often spend more on one meal in a West End restaurant than is spent on the care of a subnormal patient in hospital over a whole week.

It is also worth considering that if the pool betting duty levied on football pool entries were diverted for five years to the field of subnormality, the back of the problem would be broken. At all events, it would be tragic and quite contrary to the public interest if the promised reductions in personal taxation were made before much-needed reforms in the subnormality field.

A country which spends each year approximately £1,578 million on tobacco, another £1,691 million on alcohol, over £371 million on holidays abroad and £533 million on sugar, preserves and confectionery, to mention but a few examples of self-indulgence, cannot honestly claim to be groaning under the weight of excess taxation.

To make tax concessions while thousands of able-bodied people virtually rot away in custodial care without the necessary facilities which would enable them to live more independently within the community, would be indefensible.

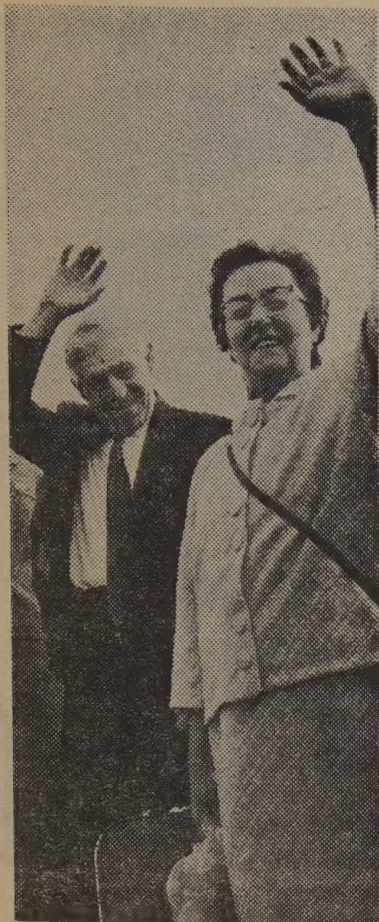
Is it worthwhile trying to improve the conditions in the existing subnormality hospitals?

Conditions are so appallingly bad in many hospitals that, unless they are to grind to a standstill, some money must be spent on them. It must be understood, however, that funds spent on 'tarting up' are in real terms wasted. They do no more than shore up a decaying system. It is merely throwing good money after bad.

What concern is this of you and me?

Simply this; any family can produce a subnormal child. A motor car accident or a thrombosis can make any of us subnormal and within a few months we could find ourselves in hospitals of the sort that I have described. A subnormal person is born every hour. The next may be your child, grandchild, brother sister, niece or nephew — 'Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.'

This is a matter of concern for each and every one of us.



Luxury all the way...

OFF on a 21-day luxury fly-cruise holiday recently went Mr. and Mrs. R. Mason, of Ramsey Heights, Huntingdonshire, and here they are giving a cheery wave from the aircraft steps.

It was first class travel all the way from the moment they boarded BEA Flight KT 832 at Gatwick Airport, en route for Naples, where they transferred to the Cunard liner "Carmania". A few of the exciting places they visited include Athens, Haifa, Malta, Palma, Rhodes and Tunis.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason won a First Prize in a Spastics League Club "Star Holiday" Competition earlier in the year. The sun of the Mediterranean was a far cry from the snowy March evening earlier this year when they were congratulated by heavyweight boxer, Joe Bugner, at a reception held in their honour.

Picture below shows Mrs. Mary Clark of Laurencekirk receive her First Dividend cheque from Scottish singer Callum Kennedy.



Cheque dropped from the skies

PROBABLY the most unusual presentation yet was seen by hundreds of people at the Enfield Borough Show when member Mr. L. Hoare received a cheque for £525. For the cheque literally fell from the skies... safe in the zipped-up pocket of Cpl. David Sampson of the Parachute Regiment's Free Fall team. As he landed Cpl. Sampson handed the cheque to the Mayoress of Enfield, Ald. Gladys Child who, in turn, made the presentation to Mr. Hoare.

"Very much a question of pennies from heaven" joked the smiling member.

ANOTHER example of the initiative shown by collectors of the "Spastics" weekly competition was the presentation of a 1st dividend cheque to Mrs. Mary Clark, of Laurencekirk, by Scottish singer, Callum Kennedy. The occasion certainly attracted considerable interest and a photograph appeared in the local newspaper. Collector Mrs. N. Greig was delighted with the outcome, which resulted in an immediate increase in membership in the area.



The Mayoress of Enfield, Ald. Gladys Child with Cpl. David Sampson of the Parachute Regiment's Free Fall Team who dropped in at the Enfield Borough Show with member Mr. L. Hoare's winning cheque.



MY 22-year-old son is mentally handicapped and will never work.

The State provides a supplementary allowance of £4 18s and this will be increased in November to £5 5s. This is less than is granted to a man who is on the sick pay or who is unemployed—why the difference? With the special costs involved—bedding, clothing and so on—£5 5s is quite inadequate to feed and clothe a mentally handicapped person.

And when the increase arrives I shall have to pay tax on it. The tax allowance for a dependant relative is only £75 as it has been for years. Other tax allowances go up but this one never changes despite the rise in the cost of everything.

This is ridiculous, and there must be thousands of people in the same situation. I suggest they all write to their M.P.s asking, at least, that the tax allowance be increased to £150. Perhaps if you publish this in Spastics News we shall get some action.

Mr. F. Long,
33 Harley Drive,
Swinnow, Wirral, Merseyside
Leeds LS13 4QY.

Second free trip was more peaceful

IN 30 years, Mr. Arthur Gosling of Congleton, Cheshire, has had two free trips by courtesy of the General Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.

The first occasion was

in 1940 when Mr. Gosling, then a member of the 4th Battalion, the Cheshire Regiment, was rescued at Dunkirk by the G.S.N. freighter "Bullfinch". The second occasion was under more peaceful circumstances, when recently, he and his wife boarded Normandy Ferries M.V. "Dragon" en route for two weeks holiday in Portugal. The couple won the trip in a holiday competition sponsored by Normandy Ferries for Spastic League Club members.

Picture on left shows Mr. and Mrs. Gosling (centre) being congratulated at winning their prize holiday by Regional Pool Promotions representative John Pritchard (left) and Normandy Ferries representative Fred Windebank.



Mrs. B. Jenkins of Nelson, South Wales receives her cheque for £846 0s. 7d. from light-heavyweight boxing prospect, Roy John at a recent presentation. Also in the picture is "Spastics" collector, Mr. R. Evans.

"Flint-hearted Treasury cost us millions"

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pair for some handicapped man, woman or child still waiting in the tragically long queue for help."

Again and again, said Mr. Burn, the Society has tackled the Treasury with a valid case for a comprehensive and sympathetic review of the tax structure as it adversely affects all charities and the handicapped. "Again and again, we have come up against a brick wall of seeming inference."

Initially, tax concessions would cost the Exchequer a moderate sum. Long-term, the results would be beneficial to the taxpayer and ratepayer, and actually save the country money.

There were countless reforms needed, said Mr. Burn, but four of them were of particular importance. All were administratively feasible, could be administered economically, and would benefit the country. They were:

Taxation relief for individual charitable donors.
Estate duty exemption on bequests to charities.
Corporation tax relief for

charities and for charities receiving dividends.

Relief from purchase tax, or its possible successor, value added tax.

Mr. Burn also made an appeal about the proposed higher postal charges which, he feared, would "slash dramatically" the funds raised by charitable greetings cards.

"We may reach the stage where postage costs more than the card itself, and people begin cutting down very heavily on their Christmas lists. If this happens it would hit all charities cruelly. In our case it would also be a crippling blow to spastics who actually produce Christmas cards at our Birmingham Sheltered Workshop and elsewhere."

The Exchequer, said Mr. Burn, already benefits handsomely by several million pounds each year as a result of the high rates of purchase tax on Christmas cards—"far more indeed than the profit earned on these cards by the charities themselves." In addition, the Post Office made big profits out of "the nation's

countless sackfuls of goodwill."

"Why, then, kill the golden goose? Why introduce a deterrent charge which will inevitably deprive the mentally and physically disabled, the blind, the ageing, the hungry, the homeless?"

Mr. Burn implored the Post Office to introduce a special low rate, perhaps one new penny, for Christmas cards posted in unsealed envelopes.

* The Society's annual meeting took place as Spastics News went to press. It will be reported in full in our next issue.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, preferably with two years experience wanted for the John F. Kennedy Centre for Spastic Children, Hong Kong.

For details, contact: THE SECRETARY, RED CROSS CENTRE, HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG.

Gallantry in uniform



After completing 30 miles of a recent sponsored walk, Linda Massochi just couldn't manage another step. Fusilier Martin Allen gallantly offered a piggy-back to the bus. Linda, who was walking in aid of Basildon and District Spastics Society, is a keen charity fund-raiser. When she won a "Personality Girl" contest organised by a local newspaper, she gave away the prize money to cancer research and Old Age Pensioners funds.

Photo by courtesy of Stan Caldwell, Essex Weekly News

The "isolated" parents

'Living With Handicap' published by Longman in association with the National Bureau for Co-operation in Child Care—50s.

THIS book with its somewhat clumsy title represents the findings of a working party set up by the National Bureau for Co-operation in Child Care. The aim of this panel of experts was to enquire into the needs of all types of handicapped children and study the facilities available for their education and care.

Information was obtained from various professional and voluntary organisations, a number of local authorities and many parents of handicapped children.

In the initial stages of the survey a letter was sent for publication in national and provincial newspapers asking parents of handicapped children to write in describing their experiences. Some of the letters are given and these form, perhaps, the most moving part of the book, showing very strongly most parents' acute sense of isolation.

The book places the focus on the child and his family in relation to the community. The importance of early detection with medical, educational and social experts working in co-operation is emphasised. The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment

Centre receives favourable mention in this respect. It is suggested that assessment centres run on these lines should be set up all over the country for the comprehensive screening not only of spastics but of children with all different types of handicap. However, with the present acute shortage of qualified staff in all fields, this

Anne Plummer on Books

seems something of a pipe-dream.

Other recommendations include the provision of pre-school play groups for disabled under fives; facilities outside hospital for the training and care of sub-normal children; and the revision of the statutory "categories of handicap". Here it was felt that local authorities should have drawn up lists of special educational needs rather than purely medical lists of disabilities.

The book is aimed at the specialist rather than the general reader but its message should interest anybody who cares about the future.

* * *

GRAHAM WARNER is quite a severely handicapped spastic, now aged 31. His book, "Bridging the gap security" is a mixture of autobiography, verse and essays about life in general.

It is divided into three parts. The first "a normal person's

Collectors beaten up by gang

TWO charity collectors were viciously attacked by a gang of youths as they made door-to-door calls in Southampton.

Student Leonard Barnard, 16, who is a registered collector for spastics, was accompanied by his father, Mr. Joseph Barnard, 46, as he knocked on doors in James Street during the early evening. Suddenly, they were set upon by a group of about 20 boys, aged between 14 and 16. A local resident dialled "999" but the gang had disappeared by the time the police arrived.

Mr. Joseph Barnard was left with serious facial injuries and a suspected fractured jaw, while his son had an injured hand. They were not robbed.

Southampton CID are investigating the incident.

Visitors wanted by Kent Group

THE Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group is looking for people to visit spastics in their own homes.

This appeal went out at the Group's annual general meeting recently. Group Chairman, Mr. Frank Higenbottom said that there were about 80 home-bound families in the area who would like to receive visits.

"The 12 committee members do their best but find it difficult to visit them all," he said.



Miss Violet Carson—the famous Ena Sharples of Coronation Street—is pictured with a group of children from Pictor House School after she had performed the opening ceremony. With her is, left, Mrs. Agnes Viickers, the headmistress, and right, Mrs. Lil Stockdale, Chairman of the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society. At the opening ceremony, the school was blessed by the Rt. Rev. Ellison, the Bishop of Chester.

Early education "a lifeline"

AN urgent plea for more pre-school nursery places for handicapped children was made by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, when he spoke at the official opening of Pictor House School, Sale, Cheshire.

He said "Early education is desirable for all children. In the case of the handicapped, however, it is no optional extra but an absolute lifeline. These children are penalised enough already by a self-orientated society which puts tax cuts and massive wage increases before provision for its sick and disabled. To deprive handicapped infants still further by withholding the vital stimulation that early schooling provides is unforgivable."

Mr. Loring congratulated Cheshire County Council on co-operating with the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society to help ensure that severely handicapped children received the benefit of a proper education from an early age. And he hoped that many more Local Authorities would follow their example of thoughtful co-operation with public-minded citizens.

Pictor House School is designed to accommodate 30 physically handicapped children from 5 to 9 years of age. Most are spastics but some suffer from spina bifida. It was

built by the local Society as an extension to their long-established Day Centre for young children; and they will continue to underwrite maintenance costs. However the Cheshire Education Committee will staff the school and accept all running costs.

This co-operation between a Local Authority and a voluntary body will not only aid handicapped children and give them a better chance in life. The official saving on capital costs also benefits local rate-payers. As Mr. Loring emphasised: "Mutual self-help between Local Authorities and voluntary bodies benefits everyone in the long run. Let us see much more of it."

THEY COME TO SEE WHAT WE ARE DOING

Visitors from all over the world have made recent months busy ones for The Spastics Society.

Dr. Masaya Takashima, a paediatrician from Tokyo, came to discuss our work, and Dr. M. Sakata, Director of the very large modern orthopaedic hospital in Kobe, Japan visited many of the Spastics Society's schools and centres during his stay.

Eight Danish delegates visited Drummonds, New Towns and Meldreth School where the delegates were joined by a party of about 15 doctors from the University of Illinois.

From Venezuela came Dr. Bernal, Professor Barboza the Director of a C.P. Unit in Venezuela, and Senora Lunas. They visited Drummonds and the Western C.P. Centre during their short visit to England.

Dr. John Whittaker from Toronto, visited Coombe Farm, during his two-day visit to England. Dr. Whittaker is himself concerned with multiply handicapped children in Toronto.

Dr. Toledo Gonzalez a young paediatrician from Seville is at present spending one month in England. He plans to spend the first two weeks visiting various day centres, The Spastics Society's Unit at Guy's Hospital, the Woolfson Centre and other specialised units. His remaining two weeks will be spent studying handicapped children in hospitals.

Society joins forces with Board

THE Spastics Society is joining forces with the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board to hold a conference with the theme "The Mentally Handicapped", at Eastbourne, Sussex, on November 8, 9 and 10.

The aim is to provide an opportunity for those associated with the care of the mentally handicapped to consider the needs of the handicapped; how they are being met, and how they may be satisfied more fully.

Chairmen for the three sessions of the Conference will be Mr. A. Briggs, Chairman of the South-East Board, Mr. J. Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, and Dr. K. R. D. Porter, the Board's Senior Administrative Medical Officer.

Overture to success

"A HUGE success" was the verdict on the charity concert staged by the Wigan and District Spastics Society, which raised £400 and attracted an audience of 1,800.

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra played works by Delius, Vaughan Williams, Elgar and Beethoven, and as a "curtain raiser" to the programme, the Wigan Group commissioned an overture from Mr. Hugh Wood, research fellow in music at Glasgow University.

£750 may be reward for big pram push

TO celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Youth Association of Synagogues in Great Britain, 12 young Jewish boys and girls set off on a 24-hour, 166-mile sponsored pram-pushing walk. The proceeds—and it is hoped that they will reach £750—will be divided between The Spastics Society and for youth development within the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain.

The walker-pushers travelled from Winchester to London via

Bournemouth, and when they arrived at the Youth Association's headquarters near Marble Arch they were greeted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor B. Fitzgerald-Moore, and there was a welcome party.

Says Miss Louise Cohen, the walk's organiser: "Our Association chose The Spastics as our charitable cause of the year because we think they care magnificently for the handicapped, irrespective of race, colour or creed."

Experts confer on Peto work

"THE Peto system" is a phrase frequently heard nowadays in discussions on the education and training of handicapped children. It refers to the work of the State Institute for Conductive Education of the Motor Disabled, Budapest, Hungary, where the education programme devised by the late Professor Peto is carried out.

At the Institute, therapy and education are blended in a programme covering all aspects of a child's development, and The Spastics Society—in line with its pioneer policy—has set up experimental Peto groups at two of its schools, Ingfield Manor and Craig-y-Parc.

Last month, the Society invited eminent experts involved in the care of handicapped children to a two-day

Conference on Conductive Education at Castle Priory College, Wallingford, Berkshire. Here delegates had an opportunity to hear of the work of the Institute from its Director, Dr. Maria Hari—who succeeded Professor Peto—and to see film records of the progress made by children at the Institute.

"The Conference provided an opportunity for the system to be discussed in depth," Mrs. J. W. Knowles, Principal of Castle Priory, told Spastics News, "and we were honoured to have Dr. Hari with us. Participants were mostly people who would be asked to advise parents and therapists, or

who are responsible for medical and educational services. It was a most successful and interesting Conference."

Photographs show some of the delegates who attended.

Pictured right: Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society with Dr. Maria Hari, Director of the State Institute for Conductive Education of the Motor Disabled, Budapest. Readers will remember Mr. Loring's challenging article on the Peto system which appeared in the September issue of Spastics News.



Discussing one of the Conference sessions are (from left): Mr. Leslie Gardner, the Society's principal psychologist and head of the Department of Educational and Social Studies;

Dr. Simon Haskell, Institute of Education, London University; Mr. Bob Lewin, the Society's Education Officer; Miss Clare Pearson, advisory physiotherapist, and Mr. Loring.



Among the head teachers who attended the Conference were Mr. Trevor Davies-Isaac, of St. Margaret's School, Croydon, and Mr. John Nelson, of Irton Hall, Holmbrook, Cumberland.



Miss M. T. McBride, H.M.I., Dr. M. Griffiths, consultant paediatrician at Lea Castle Hospital, and a member of the Society's Executive Council; Dr. M. Scott-Stephenson, Department of Education and Science, and Mr. Leslie Bowstead, senior inspector for special education, Manchester.



Photographed with Dr. Hari are (left) Mrs. Ester Cotton, the Society's advisory physiotherapist in the Peto method, and Miss E. M. Varty, headmistress of Ingfield Manor School, where the Society has set up an experimental Peto group. On the right is Mr. G. H. Crabb, headmaster of Meldreth Training School.

Lifeline seeks to fill the telephone gap

A NEW organisation called Lifeline has been started in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, to help provide telephones for disabled people. Although the recent Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act makes Local Authorities responsible for this service, it may take some time before the Act can be implemented and individual needs investigated.

The organisers of Lifeline hope to fill this gap

and speed up the telephone installation process in cases of real hardship.

* * *
FIRST winners of the new shield awarded by Hull and District Spastics Society to the local organisation raising the most money for Spastics Week is the Waltham Recreation Club, Hull. The shield, which will be competed for annually, was presented to the club by Mr.

Kevin McNamara, M.P. for North Hull.

Over 50 organisations in the area were invited to compete for the shield, and the Waltham club came top of the fund-raising league.

* * *
A PARTY of seven spastics from Huddersfield, Yorkshire, recently spent a week's holiday at the Society's Fitzroy Square Family Services and Assessment Centre, London. They were taken by

BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

coach to different places of interest each day.

* * *
PROSPECTIVE door-knock collectors who are, perhaps, slightly alarmed at the

thought of the job ahead, should have seen the letter from Mr. Thomas Loughrie in the Crewe Chronicle. He said he "had the pleasure" of being a collector for the Local Group's recent door-knock, and asked the newspaper to pass on his thanks to all those who gave, and gave well. "It was a pleasure to do the job, and I'm sure the result will bring much-needed help" he wrote.

* * *
THE Swedish-based ISRD Committee on Technical Aids, Housing and Transporta-

tion recently carried out a world wide survey of technical aids for physically handicapped children. The results of the survey are expected to be published towards the end of 1971.

* * *
FALMOUTH Town Association Football Social Club recently held a Harvest Festival, and donated £56 12s. 6d. to the Falmouth Spastics Club. At the Annual General Meeting of the Falmouth '62 Club, the secretary, Mr. A. Passmore, reported on a very active year for the Members.

Why can't they recognise one of the best ideas ever for raising a LOT of money?

ISN'T it amazing that when you offer somebody the chance of getting a lot for next to nothing they nearly always treat the gesture as being one



DON MOSS ASKS A QUESTION.

TINA SEEKS GIRLS GALORE

THE first-ever National Charity Princess was Tina Peel-Yates (she's now Mrs. Tina Cadbury) in 1969. Then she was an administrative assistant with The Spastics Society. Now she is a local appeals organiser. And one of her current jobs is to whip up enthusiasm with Local Groups to get as many entries from The Spastics Society as is possible.

"Ideally, I would like to see at least 10 entries from each region," says Tina. "That would make a total of 70 girls representing the Society—each raising funds for her own Group. With even a modest target of £1,000 apiece, that would make a very useful contribution—as well as the publicity interest it would generate."

Tina's own particular brand of expertise at fund raising came right to the fore during the first contest. Aiming at £1,000, she finished up with a total in excess of £1,600.

She has plenty of ideas to pass on to potential contestants. "I think it is essential that a contestant should raise funds for a particular project," she said. "People are much more willing to help if they can see their money going to help buy a particular piece of essential equipment, rather than just be lost among the general funds of a Group."

The starting point can be any time from now, but she feels next year's Spastics Week could give a golden opportunity for a concerted fund-raising effort. "Each Group's contestant would naturally become a Spastics Week Princess."

Already the response is enthusiastic. "We've had whispers from several parts of the country that things are going ahead well. But it's too early to make any announcements yet."

You can be sure that when the time is right, Tina and her colleagues will be making plenty of noise.

that must have a catch in it somewhere. I suppose it's this mercenary world in which we live that makes a person—approached with an idea that offers a chance to raise a few thousand pounds for the outlay of £25—give the proposer of the idea a good old-fashioned look as if to say, what's in it for you?

For over a year now I've been making such proposals to people all over the country, and I've had my share of old-fashioned looks. It's a disappointing, frustrating feeling when you get the brush off.

"Why is it?" you ask yourself. "Why is it that J. Bloggs & Co. Ltd. can't see that for a mere 25 quid, the cost of sponsoring a lively, intelligent girl for the National Charity Queen and Princess Contest, they have a prestigious, worthwhile, interesting, different but effective form of advertising, and an absolutely marvellous filip for industrial relations?"

"Why is it?" I ask myself again. "Why is it that the committee of the Watchamacallit

for Thingamygigs Thingamyhobs, after screaming to the nation for funds, turns down what must be one of the most rewarding, pleasurable and exciting ways of raising a LOT of money that has been thought up this century?"

The old-fashioned looks are getting fewer. People are beginning to realise what a great and beneficial fund raising event the National Charity Queen and Princess Contest is. People with good, strong, admired, respected names like The Spastics Society, the R.N.L.L., Dr. Barnardo's, Marks and Spencer, Pilkingtons Glass, Sketchley Cleaners. More and more charity organisations are realising that all they have to do is to get the sponsor(s) to enter the girl, back her all the way, and by May of next year their kitty is richer by a few thousand pounds.

What's in it for me? Well, I'll tell you. A contract with Top Ten Promotions that says I'm the producer of the National Charity Queen and Princess Contest; a task that physically starts at the beginning of

next year, working out the presentation of the finals to the minutest detail so that nothing goes wrong. So that the 24 girls who, because of their tremendous hard work, are given the "star" treatment, the bask in the limelight, the publicity, the accolades they so richly deserve.

Before all that, though, there is the tremendous amount of work that goes on from the moment the 1970 Contest ends—the travelling all over the country, trying to persuade people that this is a GOOD IDEA and, after they've seen the light, going back to put in a personal appearance with the contestant(s), giving moral support, and urging them on with ideas and words of encouragement.

What else is in it for me? The thrill of the final nights of the future, the emotion and the tremendous admiration I shall feel when I introduce the finalists and say, "Ladies and Gentlemen, these girls have raised between them over £1,000,000."

Already the 1971 contest is set fair for success

THE 1971 National Charity Queen and Princess Contest was launched on September 1. Just two days later the first entry was received. The volume of response from business houses, charities and contestants increases daily and it is apparent that the success of the 1970 Contest is bearing fruit. This is evident from the number of entries which originated from favourable eye witness reports of the 1970 finals at the Lyceum Ballroom, London.

There is certainly a determination on the part of all contestants to reach the finals, judging from the numerous fund-raising events which have already taken place.

Initiative is all important according to the 1970 finalist, Avril Barber, who managed to persuade Jimmy Savile to

start a sponsored walk which was later featured on Savile's Travels. With a follow-up in the local newspapers, this was a perfect introduction to Avril's 1971 campaign.

Another contestant determined to improve on her 1970 total is Anne Cumming, who is involved in several large

projects on behalf of the Scottish Hansel Village. Anne—who learned she had been sponsored again on her return from a holiday in Spain, finished 6th in the Princess Contest with a total of £1,900 and 5th in the Queen contest.

Many of the interested charities fully appreciate the Contest's potential and intend to enter several girls. One is The Spastics Society which, under the guidance of the 1969 National Charity Princess, Tina Padbury, is engaged in recruiting support on a regional, as well as on a national, basis.

Although large organisations such as Marks and Spencer, Pilkingtons, and Sketchley are actively involved, there is no question of local charities or business houses being overshadowed, and competition is keen.

Pilkingtons' News Glass Queen, Jean Martlew, was chosen at a special function on September 25 and will be endeavouring to emulate the achievements of Jenny Green, who raised £2,850 for the National Kidney Research Fund.

Sketchley Cleaners Limited are also planning an internal contest to choose a contestant and the company's P.R.O., Anne Wright, is delighted with the response to date.

Stepped incentives have been introduced for the first time and will mean that all contestants will receive prizes at stages of £250 up to a maximum of £2,000. These prizes will not affect the principal awards and exact totals will, of course, remain a secret until finals night.

A visit to the Dovercourt Road Centre for Spastics was the first step taken by contestant Jackie Stokes, who has nominated the Bristol and District Spastics Association as her charity.

She was one of the first to enter the 1971 contest and Jackie, an attractive 21-year-old from Shirehampton, Bristol, hopes to improve on the £1,900 raised last year for the Association. Her interests include horse riding, and she has the unusual ambition to race

"All Things Bright"



The film-makers are photographed! Peter Kingsgate-Smith directs a scene at Pictor House, the Day Centre run by the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society. As you can see, the children are completely unconcerned at the film team's invasion of their playroom and get on with their game. The result of the director's sympathetic and understanding handling of the child "actors" in "All Things Bright" is summed up in the scene from the film below, which shows a joyful child from Pictor House.



Jackie Stokes with 20 year old Jean Hobbs, a spastic, who carries out a number of tasks, including the sorting of envelopes, using only her feet.

"Bright" — a film to touch your heart

A YOUNG girl, unable to use her hands and arms, painstakingly sewing using her mouth to hold the needle. Another diligently typing a letter to her parents with her nose. Badly handicapped children laughing happily at play, and adult spastics enthusiastically entering into the fun of a bingo session. These are highlight scenes from The Spastics Society's new film "All Things Bright," which explains the work of volunteers dedicated to helping the spastics who are shown making such efforts to help themselves.



The film was premiered at the National Film Theatre, London, in October, and Mr. James Loring, the Director of The Spastics Society told the audience:

"This is a very honest film, essentially about our voluntary workers; the thousands of people throughout the country who work with such enthusiasm for the less fortunate. The Society could do nothing without them.

"It is a very honest film, and I think, a very good one. It shows you what it is like to be a volunteer and of the problems and difficulties to be dealt with. It is both heart-warming and touching."

One of the parents who appears in the film is Mrs. Belma Hanley, whose daughter attends the Oldham Centre. Movingly, she expressed the thought in the minds of so many parents: "What happens when I am not here anymore?"

"All Things Bright" concentrates on three Centres—Daresbury Hall, the Society's Adult Residential Centre, near Warrington; Pictor House, the Day Centre run by the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society, and the Day Centre run by the Oldham and District Spastics Society. The day-to-day life of the Centres is



shown, and the problems of running them explained.

Interspersed with these scenes, there are shots of a meeting in Manchester at which members of Local Groups and parents gathered to meet officials of The Spastics Society to discuss their work and share ideas. The mood of the meeting and of the feelings of those taking part is summed up in the film, by a member of the audience who says "We function on enthusiasm..."

And Mrs. Lil Stockdale, Chairman of the Sale Society explains what a Centre such as Pictor House means to the children attending—and their parents: "In my opinion a good Centre should not only embrace the child but the family as well. You create a little place where the family can come and blow its top, and you try and give every possible support and help. You would go to the other end of the world to help that family."

"All Things Bright" which was produced by Balfour Films, directed by Peter Kingsgate-Smith, and is in colour, is available for showing by Local Groups and other organisations interested in the cause of helping spastics. Full details of this, and other Society films, from: Film Librarian, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

PICTURED ABOVE discussing the film after its premiere are, from left, Mr. John Kellet, the Society's Assistant Director, Appeals; the film's director, Mr. Peter Kingsgate-Smith, Carol Kingsgate-Smith, and Mr. A. P. Moira, Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society.

PICTURED BELOW at the Manchester meeting which was filmed for "All Things Bright" is Mr. J. H. Higgins of the Oldham and District Spastics Society. Mr. Higgins also appears in the film in the sequences shot at the Oldham Day Centre.



"Is your service really needed?"

I READ with interest the article by Peter Cook in the September edition of your paper and as I am involved in the day-to-day sort of problems which he outlined on aids for the disabled) I am in agreement with everything he says.

I should, however, like to ask him and your Society, through your correspondence columns, firstly why there is no reminder to your readers that many aids can be obtained on permanent loan through the department of the Local Authority which is responsible for providing services under the National Assistance Act? This is usually the Welfare Department but sometimes the Welfare Section of the Health Department.

Secondly, I am wondering why The Spastics Society has felt it necessary to set up an Aids Advisory Service when there is already an information service provided by the Disabled Living Foundation, an off-shoot of the Central Council for the Disabled, which answers queries from any source and, incidentally, is paid for on a per capita basis by Local Authorities.

The Spastics Society is usually short of funds; on the face of it this might appear to be unnecessary duplication.

Mr. Norman Booth, Supervisor of Services for Handicapped Persons, County Borough of Derby.

"We can't afford to waste money"

Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of the Society's Social Work and Employment Dept. replies: "We accept the point that Mr. Booth makes and fully appreciate that many Welfare Departments provide a good and comprehensive aids service, but there are others which do not. In many areas families and individual spastics have great difficulty in finding out what aids are available and of obtaining them through the Local Authority.

We hope that with the passing of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act, this situation will be remedied and there will be uniform provision throughout the country.

The Aids Advisory service at the Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square is in no way intended to duplicate the work of the Disabled Living Foundation. Our information clerk is in very close touch with the Foundation's advisory service and all relevant information is shared.

The small exhibition at Fitzroy Square was set up for the spastics and their families who visit the Centre, and concentrates on the specialised aids and gadgets most suitable for the cerebral palsied. We certainly do not have the money to waste in duplicating services available elsewhere."



Arriving at the National Film Theatre to see "All Things Bright" is Janice Hancock, a "star" of "Three for Society", one of The Spastics Society's recent and highly-praised films. Janice is accompanied by her mother.



A NEW feature for Spastics News and one which will appear every month, bringing you favourite recipes which have been tried and tested in individual kitchens. Today we start the ball rolling—or the spoons stirring—with two very special cakes, and invite you to join in by telling us about the dish which has become your family favourite. Send the recipe to Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., and let thousands of readers discover what a super cook you are.

French Chocolate Cake with Almonds, from Sheila Jenner, Editor of Spastics News.

This is not so much a cake as compulsive eating. So gorgeously, richly irresistible that even the most determined dieters, who bore everybody to tears with their slimming sagas, invariably crumble to the extent of having two helpings when this perfect dinner party dessert is served. It has given me such an undeserved reputation as a superlative cook that I bless the name of Woman's Realm magazine (where I first discovered it) every time I bask in the compliments.

It is simplicity itself to make. You need:

4 oz. plain chocolate; 1 tablespoon brandy; 1 tablespoon black coffee; 3 oz. butter; 3 oz. caster sugar; 3 oz. ground

almonds; 3 large eggs, separated.

Turn on oven, set at very slow, 275 deg. F. (Mark 1), 110

Grease and flour an 8 in. sandwich tin; line base with grease-proof paper.

Melt the chocolate by breaking it into small pieces and putting it with the brandy and coffee in a basin standing over a pan of very hot water (the bottom of the basin must not touch the water). Put melted mixture in a saucepan. Add butter, sugar and ground almonds. Stir over low heat until ingredients bind together. Take off heat and beat in the egg yolks.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff and standing in peaks. Fold carefully into chocolate mixture. Turn into prepared tin. Bake in centre of preheated oven for 45 minutes, or until firm to touch. Turn out very carefully on to a flat serving plate.

Now the decoration is up to you. Personally I "ice" the cake with more melted chocolate and then serve it with a bowl of chilled whipped cream. Equally good is to whip cream with a little icing sugar and a few drops of vanilla essence, spread it over the cake and then sprinkle with grated chocolate.

P.S. Don't think I have forgotten the flour in the ingredients. You don't use any, and as a result have a shallow cake with an almost fudge-like consistency, which is as different as it is delicious.

Bumper box of value in store for Christmas

A BUMPER box of 24 Christmas cards containing a selection of suitable verses for all age ranges in a family has always been a special feature of Tesco's Christmas trading. This year their Big Value Christmas Box—now available in all Tesco stores and supermarkets—has a special significance, because each one sold represents a contribution to The Spastics Society.

Miss D. D. Hyams, Managing Director of Tesco (Wholesale) Ltd., who made the arrangements, said: "We

always sell an enormous quantity of Christmas cards each year and felt that this was an opportunity to assist spastics.

"We have had straight appeals, such as donating Green Shield stamps for spastics and the 'launch a lifeboat' drive. I am quite sure that when our customers realise that not only are they obtaining a quality box of cards and envelopes for 3/11d., but are also helping the cause of spastics, the response will be even greater."

Negotiations between Miss Hyams and Mr. John Kellett, Managing Director of Spastics Cards Limited, were concluded earlier in the year. Both sides regard it as a straightforward trading operation, with the Society selling-in to Tesco in the normal way.

THE Variety Club of Great Britain has presented a specially-adapted Sunshine Coach to the Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society.

The lion had second thoughts

ABOUT 250 sponsored walkers and one lion cub lined up for the start of a sponsored walk at Longleat, the Marquis of Bath's stately home in Wiltshire. The cub, from the lion park attached to the stately home, was not sponsored, which was just as well as he did not walk very far.

Nevertheless, he set the walkers off at a brisk pace on a two-mile circuit in the Longleat grounds. Many of the children completed several laps of the circuit to bump up the amount they would raise for The Spastics Society.



THREE young members of the staff at Drummonds, The Spastic Society's Adult Residential Centre at Feering, Essex, are setting out on a 10,000-mile overland trip to Singapore.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Hay, both 23, and Mr. Keith Churchman, 20. Malcolm works as an occupational therapist, his wife, Anna Merete, and Keith are houseparents. A Danish

friend, Anna Maria Nielson, 20, will complete the party.

They expect to be away for three or four months and hope to find temporary jobs at various stopping places en route to help cover the cost of the journey.

Pictured above with the Volkswagen van in which they will travel are left to right Malcolm, Anna Merete, Anna Maria and Keith.

(Photo by courtesy of Essex County Newspapers, Ltd.)

Raising money the hard way

TONY Bartnick, 21, from Blackpool performed a hair raising "Houdini" type stunt in aid of spastics recently.

He got members of the public to chain up his ankles and tie both wrists to an iron bar. Then, tied into a sack, he was placed in a weighted crate with the lid screwed down, which was dropped into five feet of water.

He came to the surface in five minutes, but badly shaken, vowed "Never again!" He was raising funds for a local organisation which is helping to provide a holiday home for spastic children.

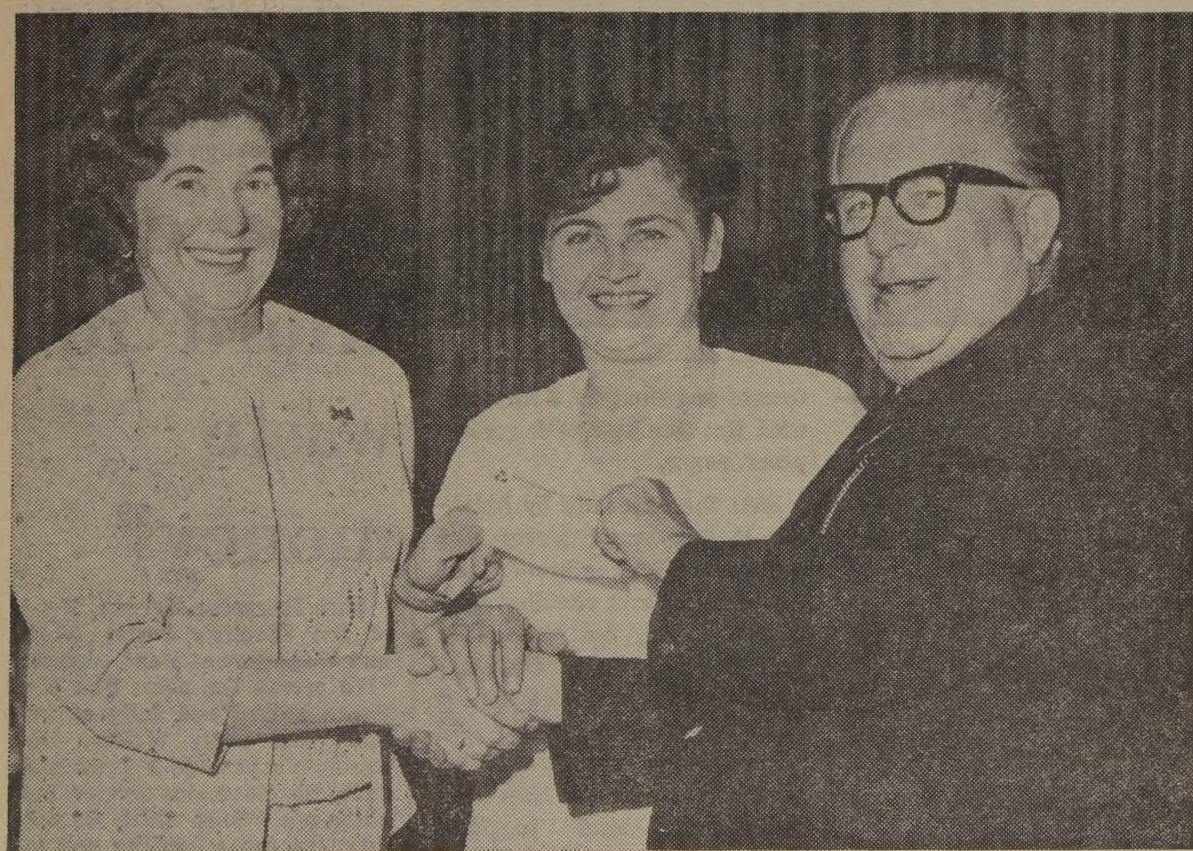
Success at the door

MANY successful "Door Knocks" have been held recently by local Groups of The Spastics Society. These include Durham County Spastics Society, which raised £1,600, and Crewe and District Spastics Society, with over £647. Sheffield and District Group collected over £1,300 towards the new spastics work centre which will be opened in the city next year.

Experts share information on disabled

MR. Dudley Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Employment and Productivity, welcomed the delegates to the Council of Europe (Partial Agreement) Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled 11th Session in London. The United Kingdom was host and organising country for this year's Session.

Mr. Smith stressed the value of an exchange of expert information between the participating nations, and told the delegates that the Government intended to carry on and expand the humanitarian work in this field which had been developed by successive Governments over the post-war years.



JACK Howarth (alias Albert Tatlock of Coronation Street) receives on behalf of The Spastics Society a £100 cheque from Mrs. Joan Patterson (left) and Mrs. Peggy Bridges. The money came from a pile of pennies started by the two ladies at the Good Companions public house, Bentley, Yorkshire.

A few days later Mr. Howarth went to the Queens Hotel, Liverpool, to knock down a pile of pennies himself, which brought in a further £100 for spastics. This is reported to be the largest amount realised personally by Mr. Howarth in the many "demolition jobs" which he has performed for us over the past five years.

Photo by courtesy of Doncaster Evening opst.

EMPLOYMENT MOVES & NEWS

RECENT employment moves and news are as follows:

MICHAEL BAXTER from Boston (Sherrards and Birmingham Sheltered Workshop) is now doing assembly work for an electronics firm in Louth.

GLENDIA BIDWELL from Cambridge (Lancaster) is employed as a filing clerk by a local firm of solicitors.

ROY CARNALL from Stoke-on-Trent (Lancaster) is working as a capstan operator in a local engineering firm.

PAUL CHARNOCK from Blackpool (Lancaster) is now working as a clerk for an insurance company in Lytham St. Annes.

JOHN CIESZCZYK from Abercynon (Sherrards) is employed as a machine operator by a local firm manufacturing electronic components.

PAMELA DREW from Luton (Sherrards) is doing small press work and packing for a local millinery firm.

ROGER HOLLAND from Watford (Sherrards) is now working as a drilling operator for a firm of control gear manufacturers.

MICHAEL JONES from Cardigan who has recently completed a course of business studies at Swansea Technical College, is now working as an executive officer in the Telecommunications Department of the G.P.O. in Cardiff.

JOSEPH MATHER from Salford (Lancaster) is now employed on inspection work by a local engineering firm.

ALAN NEWSHAM from Blackpool (Lancaster) is working as a clerk for an insurance company in Lytham St. Annes.

GRAHAM SHAW from Warwick (Sherrards) is working in Leamington Spa as a dumper truck driver for a firm of building contractors.

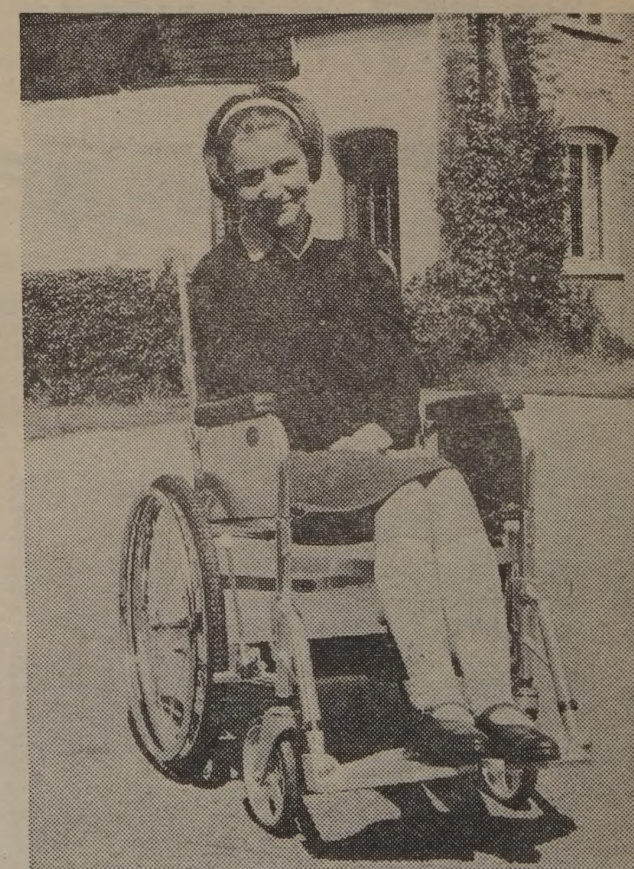
DERRY STAIG from Lytham St. Annes is working as a machine operator in Kirkham.

DENNIS WALTON from Tip-ton (Sherrards) is working as a drilling operator for an engineering firm in Dudley.

ANTONIA WRIGHT from Bexhill is working in a local factory.

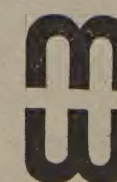
LIGHT? LIGHTER? LIGHTTEST!

The NEWTON wheelchair is the lightest of them all



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Birmingham 33

Telephone 021-783 6083



Kazoo order was no headache—but parents beware!

THESSIDE Spastics Centre has won an order for 100,000 kazoots. No, this is not a special consignment of exotic animals, just a load of toy whistles, like the one being tested by Valerie Smith in the picture, below.

Valerie and her 28 fellow workers at the Centre in Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, expect to take a year to complete the order for a local toy wholesaler — then parents of young children are in for a noisy time.

Photo by courtesy of Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough.



Could you provide "sympathetic" home?

THE Children's Department of the London Borough of Barnet is looking for a long-term foster-home—or adoptive home for a little spastic boy, aged 18 months.

The Department says that the child is lively and active and is making good progress at a Centre for handicapped children.

A spokesman for the Department told Spastics News:

"We would consider anywhere in the country as long as he could have a sympathetic home and the opportunity to keep up any necessary treatment. Allowances would be paid."

If you feel you can help, write to the Borough Children's Officer, London Borough of Barnet, Family Advice Centre, 1, Friern Park, Finchley, N12 9ED. (01)-445 8772.

Director: our job is joyous

"Our job with the physically handicapped is a joyous and not a sad one" said Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society when he attended the official opening Mere Oaks Day Special School, Boar's Head, Wigan, and the picture above sums up the sentiment. It shows members of the official party greeting some of the handicapped children at Mere Oaks and joining them in their play. From left to right: County Councillor Dan Bennett; Councillor Mrs. Annie Sharratt; Mere Oaks headmaster, Mr. Marshall; Councillor Joseph Healen; Mr. Loring; and County Councillor Roger Archibald, Chairman of the County School Health Sub-Committee.

Mere Oaks School was sponsored jointly by Lancashire County Council and The Spastics Society. The Society was responsible for the Nursery section of the school at a cost of £35,548.

Adventure gift from Guides

RENFREWSHIRE Girl Guides have given a new £1,500 adventure playground to the Corseford School for Spastics, Johnstone, Scotland. The money was raised at various events held to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Guide movement.

Viscount Muirshiel, Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, visited the school recently to open the new playground and plant a commemorative tree.

Spend now—save later on care of disabled

IF the nation wants to save money long-term on its social services, then it must be prepared to pour in extra cash now so that under-privileged people, such as the disabled, can obtain a greater measure of independence. This point was made by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, when he spoke at the Society's North East Regional Conference at Harrogate.

Mr. Loring referred to the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act which, if implemented by all Local Authorities, could enable many more handicapped people to live independently at home. He felt that any provisions which helped to keep people out of costly

institutional life were essentially long-term economy measures.

But, he warned, "initially we must be prepared, both as taxpayers and ratepayers, to provide more cash to implement Mr. Morris's fine Act and enable our disabled to live their lives happily within the community, wherever this is possible."

"And this will not be accomplished without a struggle. Much will depend upon the attitude which Medical Officers of Health and Senior Welfare Officers take towards the Act. Many, no doubt, will put pressure on their Committees to implement the provisions as quickly as possible. An indifferent minority, however, will drag their feet as the skeletons of ratepayers' pockets is shaken before them."

"Raise all hell"

Mr. Loring stressed, therefore, that during the current Help the Handicapped Week it was not sufficient merely to show a passing concern for the disabled, then sit back smugly in a glow of virtue. Instead, all thinking people within a community should watch carefully to see that their own Local Authority did not lag behind in caring for the handicapped in its midst.

If neglect occurred, they should "raise all hell" to help ensure that the disabled understood the new Act, and benefited fully from its many provisions.

Picture below shows a section of the large audience of Local Group members who attended the conference at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate. Regional Conferences provide an opportunity to discuss Society policy and Local Group developments.



Sing carols with the top stars

LONDON'S Royal Festival Hall will provide the setting, on December 5, for the first Carol Concert to be organised by the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Commencing at 8 p.m., the concert will include as solo artistes Vera Lynn, Moira Anderson and Nor Emmanuel. They will be supported by Woking Spworth Choir. A piano solo, with the choir, will be given by Leslie Crowther.

There will be readings by Sir John Gielgud, David Jacobs and David Kossoff. Production will be by Ralph Reader, and Ron Goodwin and Norrie Paramor are arranging the music.

Tickets cost 50s., 40s., 30s., 20s., 15s., and 10s. Application should be made after November 5 to Box Office, Royal Festival Hall, London S.E.1. Telephone: 01-928 3191.

Founder member dies

A FOUNDER member of Gloucester and District Spastic Association's Executive Committee, Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, has died. Known affectionately to her many friends as Lizzie, Mrs. Carter had for many years helped in the Association's shop. Gloucester born and bred, she was a popular and enthusiastic worker for the Association who deeply regret her loss.



The Conference was chaired by Dr. J. S. Thorp of the Department of Applied Physics and Electronics at the University of Durham, and Chairman of the Durham County Spastics Group.

Banner of success on summit of Snowdon



On the way up . . . and leading the way is Lance Wrigley, of Fitzroy Square, London, who did not let his 69 years deter him from the adventure.

THE lucky 13 spastics from the Association of 62 Clubs, the clubs run by the handicapped for the handicapped, were justly proud of themselves as they stood on the summit of Snowdon after their unaided climb to the top. There they planted a banner reading "Please help spastics to help themselves." Today we show pictures of the achievement, and John Battson of Lichfield, Staffordshire, one of the climbers, and Lord Energlyn, Patron of the Association, give their impressions of the great day in words.

THE omens for an exciting day pitting our strength against the heights of Snowdon were pretty good as we assembled in the bright morning sunshine outside the modern and comfortable Llanberis Youth Hostel ready for the ascent.

The top of Snowdon was hidden by a thin sheet of cloud, but there seemed to be a chance that it might clear, and there was little sign that the weather would bring our chief enemy—rain. Our party was also in good spirits because our training weekend in Derbyshire had convinced us that the climb was possible, and we were also enjoying renewing friendships made then.

Steady pace

Our training trip had taught us the importance of keeping to the pace of the slowest, so we had fairly frequent halts to eat Ron Firman's pears or glucose tablets. Ron was insistent that we kept to a slow even pace, but he had great difficulty in restraining Lance Wrigley, who insisting as ever that he was a mere 69, seemed well set on reaching the top first, despite an occasional tumble.

Ron's policy of keeping an even but slow pace paid hand-

some dividends, and I think even he was amazed that we had climbed to 2,300 ft. by 12.30. As a result we were able to have nearly an hour's break for lunch.

Strenuous

Next came the steepest and most strenuous part of the climb. As the mist thickened, the party strung out so that no one lost sight of the climber ahead.

After pressing on in this way for some time, we began to meet walkers who had left the summit, and they encouraged us with phrases such as "You're nearly there" or, "It's not far now." Then after climbing some loose rock there looming out of the mist was the summit cairn, and we hammered our '62 Club flag into the rock.

As we had reached the top by 2.30 we were in the peculiar position of having to wait in the hotel until the arrival of our WELCOMING party on the 3 p.m. train.

Compliment

There was a quite an unexpected stop on the return journey by train. We thought the engine driver had stopped to talk to a farmer, or another railwayman. Instead it was Mr. Christopher Briggs, a famous mountaineer and leader of the Mountain Rescue teams in Snowdonia, who had stopped the train especially to meet our party. He presented us with miniature ice-axes, the emblem of the Snowdon Mountaineering Club—membership of which is limited to seasoned climbers—and we all appreciated this extremely kind gesture.

JOHN BATTSON

THEY WELCOMED THE WELCOMING PARTY!

THE existence of a mountain railway on Snowdon in itself indicates that the average person is not prepared to ascend on foot. It is a long hard pull to the top and people frequently wrench ankles when moving over the pitted sedge and bog ridden areas. We were all naturally anxious for the safety of the party—an anxiety showed by all who were on the mountain that day.

To avoid showing any trace of this anxiety Bill Hargreaves, the President of the Association, Mrs. Hargreaves, Lady Energlyn and myself decided to ascend by train.

We estimated that the climbers would not reach the summit by three o'clock. To our surprise they accomplished the climb in under five hours. You can appreciate the humour of the situation when we all arrived too late to receive the mountaineers. They received us instead!

No doubt the flag they have planted at a height of 3,650 feet above sea level constitutes a world record and it will serve to show more fortunate people how to enjoy the simple things in life to the full.

I was tremendously impressed by the hospitality of the restaurateurs and the manager of the mountain railway. They gave the mountaineers the



Tim Martin of the Derby '62 Club and an executive committee member of the Association lends a hand with a broken shoelace. Damsel in (slight) distress is Mary Ann Youatt, of Somerton, Somerset.

Home and work at Crewe

THE residential Centre opened at the headquarters of the Crewe and District Spastics Society in October provides accommodation for six spastics and workroom facilities for 12.

The project represented 15 years' effort, and £2,100 of the £12,000 cost was raised in Crewe. And the fund-raising days are not over, for although goods made in the workshop will bring in money, £2,000 a year will be needed for upkeep.

The official opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Derek "Blaster" Bates, and Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, was among the guests.

Mr. Loring said that he had watched with interest the work in Crewe. A lot of attention was paid to handicapped children, but people tended to forget that they needed the same amount of care when they grew up.

A display given at Corby Civic Theatre, Northamptonshire, by pupils of the Wendy Sharpe School of Dancing, raised £200. This amount was divided between a local church building fund and Corby and District Spastics Society.

BETWEEN THE LINES

By Derek Lancaster-Gaye



FOR two consecutive years spastics in this country have shown their paces at the National Spastics Games and many enjoyed for the first time the opportunity for real competition in the field of sport. None who took part in these events, or those who were fortunate enough to watch them, would deny that

the Games have justified themselves.

It is encouraging that The Spastics Society is now seeking to extend these events to include competitors from Europe. At a time when Europe is much in the news it is fitting that we should be broadening our sporting horizons to include sportsmen and women from countries abroad.

A meeting is soon to be held in Hamburg to be attended by representatives from Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland amongst others, to discuss ways and means of establishing the first European Spastics Games in 1971.

Host country

The intention is to hold this new event as a sequel to the National Games at Stoke Mandeville in July, 1971. And all the indications are that the United Kingdom will be the first host country in a regular series of international events in the future.

We may have our problems as a nation with the prospects of a Common Market, but the prospects of a European sporting events of this nature leave little to the imagination.

ORGANISATIONS concerned with the well being of the disabled have been quick to react to the Government's acceptance of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. A number of leaflets have been issued—amongst them The Spastics Society's "New Horizons for the Disabled"—which have sought to explain in simple terms just what the 'new deal' for the disabled really amounts to. So far as the Society's contribution is concerned, demand has already exceeded the supply, and further copies have had to be printed.

It is encouraging that a

large proportion of the leaflets have been requested by Local Authorities for issue to staff and to the disabled in their areas. Encouraging too is the fact that one can assume that these Local Authorities will do justice to the letter of the law. For many of this Authorities with a positive responsibility to provide or to do more than they have in the past, the Act, if indeed they seek to implement it, will involve additional finance. There have already been examples of attempts to opt out of the situation by claiming that the Act came too late for adequate financial provision to be made in the current budget.

However, it is a fair assumption that they will all have had an opportunity to read the provisions of the new Act by now, and the coming months will provide ample opportunity for us all to see to what extent they are willing to implement its far reaching provisions.

Exciting start

Unfortunately the Act contains, inevitably in the circumstances, certain words capable of misconstruction, at least by those anxious to invoke uncertainty. Access to public buildings for the disabled must be provided where this is 'reasonable and practicable' in all the circumstances. What is, in fact, 'reasonable and practicable' can well be the subject of controversy. There has already been one instance reported in the press of an interpretation of the terms of the Act in a manner which was clearly not in the minds of those who drafted it. No doubt time and a few legal precedents will be required before justice will be seen to be done. But at least it is an exciting start to the new deal.

Residents of the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre at Scunthorpe now have swimming lessons on alternate Friday nights. Members of the public act as voluntary instructors.



Confident smiles from the climbing party and wellwishers before the ascent.



Congratulations from Lord Energlyn (centre) for Eileen Spink and Christopher Hill, both of Abbots Langley, Watford, Herts.

COLLECTING BOXES WRECKED BY VANDALS

VANDALS are helping themselves to hundreds of pounds of charity money, stealing and breaking open "Susie" doll collecting boxes which provide a vital source of income to a local Society.

The boxes, in the form of near-life size dolls representing crippled children, belong to Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society, which runs a holiday home for spastics.

In the past year more than

a third of their 36 street collecting boxes have been stolen or damaged. In that time a Society official estimates that £300 has been lost. The dolls themselves cost £15 15s. each and are in use over a wide area. But most of the vandalism has occurred in Southport.

The thieves

They are the target for two types of thief — the professional who cuts through the guard chain securing the dolls, and the petty thief who breaks into the boxes where they stand. Crime prevention officers suggest that the boxes should be made of steel and welded, instead of chained, to the position they occupy.

About £800 was collected from the dolls last year, but the total would have been much higher if thieves had not got there first.

"Deplorable"

Alderman Mrs. Jean Leech, Mayor of Southport, told angry officials of the Society who showed her some of the shattered dolls: "This is absolutely deplorable. I find it incredible that people should do this sort of thing. I hope that those responsible will be caught and severely punished."

Later, when presiding at the



Society's annual meeting, Mrs. Leech paid special tribute to the work of the Society which has helped more than 2,000 spastic and handicapped people in the past six years. She was greatly encouraged, she said, to see the working of the Society's well-run holiday home Ellerslie Court.

The Society chairman, Mr. R. B. Redmond, said that in spite of vandalism "the income from dolls and boxes must be the highest in the country."

The Mayor of Southport, Alderman Mrs. Jean Leech examines the broken remains of collection boxes with officials of Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society. From left to right, Mr. Stanley Smith, Hon. Secretary, Collecting Units; the Mayor; Mr. T. C. Edwards, Executive Committee member; and Society President Mr. R. G. Wells.

Picture by courtesy of Southport Visitor

One group that has responded to an appeal to the public by Society chairman Mr. R. B. Redmond to help stamp out vandalism has been Hell's Angels.

The group has assured Society officials that they will keep boxes under surveillance and that there will be trouble for those found tampering with them.

Southport people whose generosity is marred by the action of a few vandals among them have reacted strongly to the thefts. In a leading article, the "Southport Visitor" comments:

"These collecting boxes are in the shape of crippled children and the thieves who molest them should realise that their actions are hurting real crippled children."

"It is shocking that this mean and petty crime should be so prevalent in Southport and it is up to us all to stamp it out."

Just three of the many reasons for selecting Carters equipment

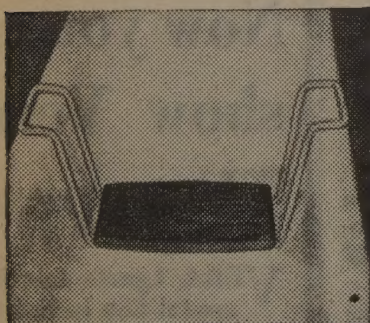


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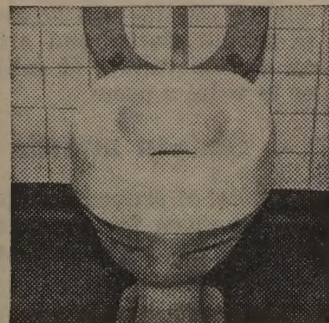
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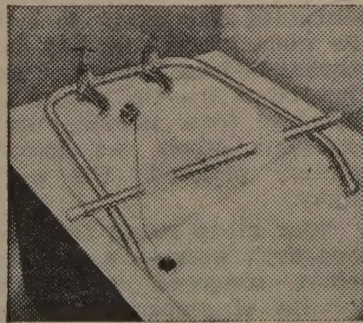
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Duke defends "flutter" for good causes

GAMBLING in aid of charity was defended by the Duke of Rutland, President of the Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group, when he opened a £6,000 nursery school extension at The Spastics Society's Family Help Unit, The Mount, Nottingham. Britain was a nation of gamblers and we should not think it immoral to use people's betting instincts for charitable purpose, he said.

The Spastics Society, said the Duke, had suffered a bad blow by the introduction of betting duty on the fund-raising football pool, and added that he and many others hoped there would soon be changes in the law for giving to charities.

Urgent need

Thanking the Duke, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, said that there was an urgent need for more nursery education throughout Britain, particularly for handicapped children.

He went on: "The acute shortage of nursery education throughout the country is causing alarm to all educationalists. It bears particularly heavy on handicapped children, whose progress is often severely retarded by lack of contact with other children. In many cases a child's physical handicap can be aggravated if it does not receive an adequate pre-school education. Furthermore, it may develop additional psychological handicaps."

"The deprivation suffered by handicapped children who do not receive a nursery education is often irreparable," he added. "It is also economic folly, as these children could end up on the human scrapheap for life, needing to be constantly cared for by the State. It produces grave prob-

lems for special schools who find that many handicapped children in their first year are emotionally little more than babies.

"In recent years The Spastics Society and its affiliated Local Groups have provided 24 Nursery Units, money for which has been raised largely by parents of spastic children. Many of these parents were faced with the additional strain of looking after their own handicapped children."

"Here in Nottingham, it is entirely through the generosity of local people, and parents of spastics, that the new nursery school facilities have been made possible. As a result, many spastic children will be given a good start in life."

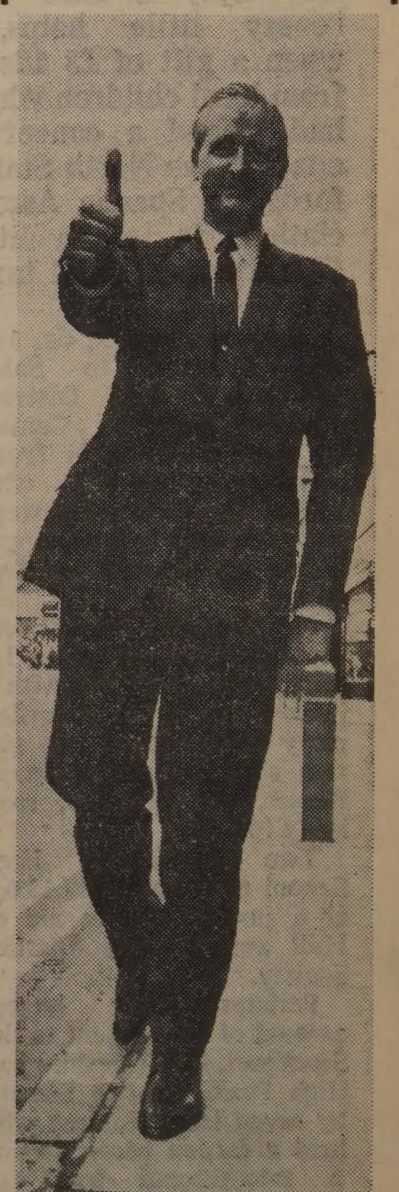
Campaign

"During the coming year, The Spastics Society will campaign vigorously for a dramatic increase of nursery school facilities in this country. An adequate pre-school education should be the birthright of every child—particularly for the handicapped."

Mr. Loring praised the Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group which contributed the money for the new extension, which will cater for up to 12 children, aged from two to five years, at any one time.

Picture of the opening on

He says: Forget the limousine



A 12-MILE walk is planned for business executives who will be invited to leave behind their chauffeur-driven limousines to help a town's spastic children.

The walk—from the new Spastics Centre in Durham to the Sunderland Spastics Centre—is the idea of Mr. D. S. Hewet, pictured above with a thumbs up sign on the prospects of this walk, chairman of Sunderland Spastics Society and the North-East Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

Aim is to raise money for Society funds, also to cover the cost of a new ambulance.

Mr. Hewet wants to persuade about 25 Sunderland businessmen to take part in the walk and hopes that with their business contacts, each will be able to raise about £100 sponsorship.

Picture by courtesy of the Newcastle Journal.

YOUNG ONES SHOW THEY CARE

THESE pictures show just a few of the children who have worked with heart-warming generosity on behalf of spastics recently.

All over the country, these enterprising youngsters have been holding bazaars, concerts and garden fetes to raise money for the handicapped.

There was a four-a-side football match in Blackburn, a Harvest Festival in South London and the ever-popular jumbles in Scotland, York and Barrow. In Staffordshire it was truly a case of "every little helps," when a gift of £3 12s., from local children who had staged a concert, enabled the North Staffordshire Spastic Association to reach its £2,000 appeal fund target.

A heartwarming 5s. 1d. was donated to Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society's Centre by four little girls from Ashton-on-Mersey who raised the money by singing Harvest Festival songs. Their ages? Just six and seven.

In Oldham, Lancashire, six youngsters, all under 11, raised more than £10 with a jumble sale, while a garden party organised by two sisters, aged five and seven, in Barnet, Hertfordshire, realised £16.3.6d.

Two 13-year-old High School girls made £17.13.6d. at a jumble sale in aid of Hull and District Spastics Society.

Perhaps the largest amount of all was sent to the Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society by seven local children who held a garden party, raising a magnificent total of £31.11s.

Who is the phantom donor?

SOMEONE who believes in doing good by stealth has benefited The Spastics Society by more than £20—and so far, cannot be identified.

The mystery benefactor has left several anonymous donations at the office of Mrs. G. J. Thorn, the East Anglia Regional Social Worker.

Despite an article about the work of The Spastics Society—and mentioning the "phantom donor" which Mrs. Thorn prompted a county newspaper to publish—the mystery remains unsolved.



A group of Salisbury boys, who gave up five days of their holiday to run a "market stall" in aid of spastics. The boys started up the stall with their own spare books, toys and comics and went on to sell second-hand goods and garden produce given by people living nearby. The stall raised £9.9s. which was sent to the Salisbury and District Spastic Association. This charity was chosen because the boys have a friend who is a spastic.

Photo by courtesy of Salisbury Journal.



These children from Blackhall Sunday School, Edinburgh, held special collections during the summer to buy the tricycle, which has been presented to the West-erlea School for Spastics. Judging from their happy expressions they found there was good fun in good works. Photo by courtesy of Evening News and Dispatch, Edinburgh.



Jamie and Susan Frankland, Dominic Kennedy and Vicky Flear raised £5 for the Lincoln Spastics Society by setting up a front garden stall and selling jumble. They spent a fortnight collecting their stock and added to the jumble proceeds by selling apples at 1d. each.

Picture by courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo.

When charity "scrounging" is an embarrassment

WHEN a Daily Mirror reader complained in the newspaper's letters page that she was "tortured by callers for charity", a prompt reply came from Mrs. Audrey Spiers of the North Surrey Spastics Group. Her thoughtful letter was prominently displayed in the Daily Mirror and must have given millions of readers food for thought.

It started when a young wife in Durham declared in a letter that she and her husband were saving hard for a home and furniture on a very modest wage, but "we are tortured by callers for charity. She tried to give a little, she said, but she had reached 'the end of my tether and of my spare coppers. Surely there should be no need for these people to have to go around begging."

A few days later, the following letter from Mrs. Spiers of Esher, Surrey, appeared:

"Please let me put the other side of the story to the reader who is bothered by the number of charity appeals. In the North Surrey Spastics Group we run a Work Centre which employs about thirty adult spastics, thus helping them to lead fuller lives.

"This Centre costs some £14,000 a year to run. The Spastics Society provides almost a third of this and local councils help with about another third of the costs. This leaves nearly £5,000 to be found by family and friends. We do all the obvious things like fetes, bingo sessions, jumble sales and charity walks, but it is the same few willing helpers all the time, and we are capable of only so much.

"I have got to the stage where I can no longer face

friends to ask them for their discarded belongings to sell. So when recently we had the chance to hold a flag day, we jumped at it—the chance to scrounge from someone new, strangers whom we hadn't already pestered. We were lucky.

"Our group raised £627 for one day's work — a minimal effort compared with the months of preparation for a fete.

"Roll on the day when a brave Government takes it upon itself to look after all handicapped people.

"But until then, we just have to keep asking a generous public for their support."

The Editors of the letters page replied:

"As professional beggars ourselves, ma'am, we endorse the point you make—that it takes a thicker skin to ask for charity than it does to refuse it."

Famous will judge literary contest for spastics

A PANEL of famous people will act as judges for a special literary competition which The Spastics Society is running for spastics. They include Mrs. Harold Wilson, Godfrey Winn, Marjorie Proops, Christina Foyle, and Timothy Raison, M.P.

Spastics of all ages throughout the country will be invited to submit stories and articles on a wide variety of subjects, or to write a poem.

Sixteen awards

A total of sixteen cash prizes will be given for the best entries in the eight sections of the contest.

The contest will run from December 1970 to February 26, 1971. So now is the time to start thinking about it—but wait for the details which are now being finalised.

Full information will be sent to Schools and Centres, Local Groups and '62 Clubs and will also appear in next month's Spastics News.

Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1. Printed by Bristol United Press Ltd., Silver Street, Bristol 1. In Association with Godfrey Lang Ltd., Cliffrids Inn, London, E.C.4.

Now you can show Vera's TV appeal

VERA Lynn's television appeal film in behalf of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, which was shown on B.B.C. television in August, is available on loan.

The film is in colour, in 16 mm, and can be used on almost any type of projector. It runs for five minutes.

Applications to: S.O.S., 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.